



January 2011

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First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee

THE BELLTOWER



**DE-GREENING OF THE CHURCH
SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011
FROM 1-3PM**

**NEXT SESSION MEETING WILL BE JAN. 23, 2011 AND
PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL NEW AND OLD SESSION MEM-
BERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND!**

Happy New Year! Per Capita for 2011 will be \$34.45



<u>Staff</u>	
Guest Pastor Rev. Frank Garton	
Director Of Music Ministry Paul Johnson	
Treasurer Dan Pitkin	
Secretary Kathie Grazis	
Nursery Attendant Tina Pitkin	
Comptroller Jim Faford	
Custodian/Maintenance Nick Kupcikevicius	

PRESBYTERIAN PEARLS FROM THE PAST

Between 1935-36 new pews were installed in the church. A new chancel was completed with hand-carved reredos (the artistic decoration behind the choir). The reredos are entirely carved from Appalachian right-sawn oak and weigh 945 pounds. The left panel displays the Greek letter Alpha and the right panel displays the letter Omega, indicating the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet. The first and the last is one of the best-known names given to Jesus. Average Sunday attendance during these years was 225.

**NEVER GIVE THE DEVIL A RIDE....HE WILL ALWAYS WANT TO
DRIVE.**

A Letter From Your Guest Pastor.....

Good Morning!

It is early, it is snowy, it is cold, and I'm cozy in my study and thinking of you. My cup of coffee is "at the ready" (left over from last night, not fresh) Thoughts of what might be shared with you have begun to dominate this beautiful early morning as the New Year dawns...I pass along a collection of "thoughts" for a new day and a new year; hopefully they will bless and encourage your reading. I am not the author, only the sharer of gifts from a friend, unknown...May our Lord bless and keep you and guide our wonderful First Presbyterian Family into 2011!!

A Few Thoughts to Start a New Day and a New Year!

All people smile in the same language.

Everyone needs to be loved...especially when they do not deserve it.

Thank God for what you have, TRUST GOD for what you need.

If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday

And the worries of tomorrow,

You have no today to be thankful for.

Take time to laugh,

For it is the music of the soul.

Laughter is God's sunshine

Patience is the ability to idle your motor

When you feel like stripping your gears.

To get out of a difficulty,

One usually must go through it.

We take for granted the things

That we should be giving thanks for.

Do what you can, for whom you can,

With what you have, and where you are.

FDG says, "You are on my mind and in my heart!" Blessings on ALL.....

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 12, 2010

Moderator: Rev. Al Abbott

Clerk: Rebecca Schiltz

Elders present: Jeanne Chapman, Judy Markham, Bonnie Bergeron, Mary Elise Burnett and Dan Pitkin.

Youth Elder: Thomas Pitkin

Absent: Trudy Curtis

Quorum Declared

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:44am.

Minutes from stated session meeting on Nov. 14, 2010. Bonnie motioned to approve, and Burnett seconded and it was a unanimous carry.

Reports:

Deacon's Report - Written report submitted.

Pastor's Report— none

Clerk Report—Kathie Grazis accepted into membership on Nov. 28, 2010. Member Nathaniel Alexander passed on Dec. 6, 2010. Final membership number is at 76 members.

- Request for use of the Parlor on Feb. 12, 2011 from 2-4 for wedding reception by Amy Smith-tabled for not enough information.
- Presbytery voting to make significant changes to the Book of Order, Book of Confessions, and others. Motion to not spend Session time on this matter studying the material (Schiltz, Markham) motion failed. Follow up meeting for Thomas to form a committee to study this material and present a synopsis back to session. (Burnett, Chapman) 5 ayes, 2 naves and motion carries.

Treasurer's Report—review of budgeted line items. Motion to allow Dan to use laptop in the vault to do line item reconciliation of the finances. (Chapman, Markham) unanimous approval.

Youth Group— Doing program at Christmas Eve and will be taking it on the road to the shut-ins.

Committee, Task Forces, and Board Reports

Building and Grounds-

- Update on parking lot—holes have been filled.
- Update on lighting—currently have two estimates to fix this and 1 more that is currently missing. Motion to allow B & G to go ahead and repair the lights using the lowest quote of the 3 once all 3 quotes come in. (Schiltz, T. Pitkin) unanimous passing.
- Update on insurance quotes—motion to change insurance policy to *Brotherhood Mutual Insurance First* (Schiltz, Bergeron) unanimous passage.
- Snow removal—found company to do this at the rate of \$55/per time.
- De-greening of the church scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 8th from 1-3

SESSION MINUTES CONT.

Hispanic Task Force— Motion to raise the usage fee for John 3:16 to \$700./month based on the fact that they are here 7 days a week. Also, any incident requiring additional janitorial service or maintenance will be charged at the rate of \$50 per incident. Also, any breach of security (door left unlocked, or false security alarm) will be charged a \$25 fee. This will be effective on Feb. 1, 2011. (Markham, T. Pitkin) unanimous passage.

Personnel Committee— reviewed and made recommendations for treasurer and asst. treasurer's job descriptions. Full job description to be delivered at the next stated session meeting.

Worship Committee—Shared committee minutes. Motion from committee to repair and tune the organ (Chapman) unanimous passage.

Stewardship and Finance—

- Report
- Budget—working on finalized budget

By-Laws Task Force—has received comments from participants of the task force and will have something to report next session meeting.

Old Business

- Policy and Procedure Manuel—the new insurance company has a program that may help with this.

New Business

- Secretary is requesting replacing the monitor in the office for the front door as it does not work at times. Jeanne, Mary Elise, and Bonnie to work on getting 3 quotes for next session.
- Motion to present as a Moment for Mission by Rachel Trevino for an ailing friend with collection of a special offering that day. Date open based on Rachel's schedule (Chapman, Schiltz) Unanimous passage.
- Hand-out presented on responsibilities of session committees for a proposed committee structure to think about and discuss at next session meeting.

Closed meeting with prayer at 2:45pm.

Next stated session meeting scheduled for January 23, 2011. Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Feb. 6, 2011.

First Presbyterian Church received a donation sent to us from Holohan Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of \$250. This is the second year we have received this generous donation from Holohan's.

We appreciate the fact that they take good care of our heating and air conditioning system and that they have chosen to make this donation to us!



A big thank you to all of you that donated items or cash for the Christmas Family that First Presbyterian Church sponsored this year. All the items were delivered to the delighted family. Some of those items were a TV, a computer, and some used clothing. New items purchased and delivered to the 15 year old boy were 3 pairs of jeans, 3 long-sleeved shirts, 2 short-sleeved shirts, boots, socks, a winter coat, hat, gloves, a Christmas stocking with goodies and games, and a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card was given to Grandma. A trunk full of food was also delivered, as well as a turkey at Thanksgiving and a ham at Christmas. Your generosity was very much appreciated and the family was very grateful and very overwhelmed by your goodness. **Also, a big thank you goes out to the Pitkins for spearheading this effort.

LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL



A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring an object to share with the class that represented their religion. The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary, and I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Presbyterian, and this is a casserole."



KIDS & YOUTH



Happy New Year!

Sunday School for youth of all ages begins again on January 9th. Tina Pitkin will lead a study during the month of January focusing on the question: "What Would Jesus Do?" This study will feature lessons, activities and discussion. Please join us at 9:15am on Jan. 9th! See you then!

Youth Group will resume on Feb. 6th and a lunch and a movie are on the agenda. Mark your calendars now for this fun time coming up. You don't want to miss it!

CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETINS FOR COMING YOUTH EVENTS

Worship Volunteers 2010

Jan.2-Communion Sunday

Liturgist Chris Young
 Acolyte Shea Kosyla
 Ushers Doug & Sue Barclay
 Communion Dan Pitkin
 Thomas Pitkin

Jan.9

Liturgist Bonnie Bergeron
 Acolyte Alexis Zunke
 Ushers Jerry & Trudy Curtis

Jan. 16

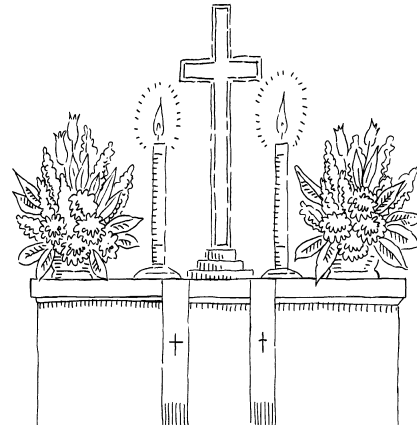
Liturgist Thomas Pitkin
 Acolyte Billy Pitkin
 Ushers Ralph Klein
 Jeanne Chapman

Jan. 23

Liturgist Anne Miller
 Acolyte Francis Ndegwa
 Ushers Richard Logan
 Judy Markham

Jan. 30

Liturgist Jeanne Chapman
 Acolyte Alyssa Zunke
 Ushers Ron Armstrong
 Elizabeth Bauer



Worship Schedule

Jan.2– Communion Sunday-2nd Sunday after Advent-Rev. Franklin Garton .
“In The Beginning Was the Word”
 John 1: 1-18

Jan. 9– 3rd Sunday after Advent -Rev. F.Garton
“The Message of John & Jesus—REPENT”
 Matthew 3: 13-17, and 4: 17

Jan. 16– 4th Sunday after Advent– Rev. F. Garton .
“The Calling of the First Disciples”
 John 1: 29-42, Matthew 4: 19-23

Jan. 23– 5th Sunday after Advent-Rev. F. Garton
“Jesus—Tempted and Tried”
 Matthew 4: 1-23

Jan. 30– 6th Sunday after Advent-Rev. F. Garton .
“The Wonderful Beatitudes”
 Matthew 5: 1-12

Congregational News



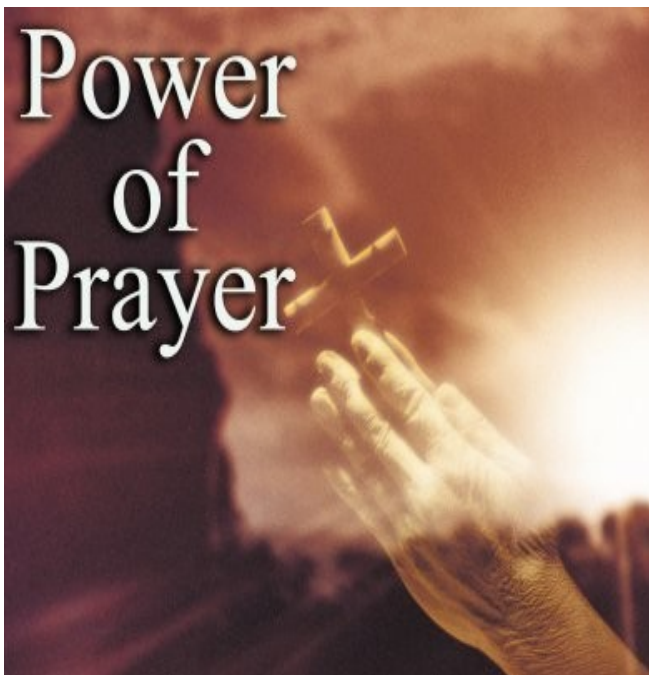
Prayer List

Members & Friends

- Karen Baysinger & new babay, McKenah
- Mary Elise Burnett
- Ruth Brooks (Sue Barclay's mother)
- Terry Chapman (Jeanne's brother)
- Craig Froominckx (Chloe's son)
- OJ Grazis
- Kay Jones
- Gwen Kosyla (new mom)
- Mary & Don Maddox
- Shirley Maxfield
- First Presbyterian Church
- John Sowell (Bob's brother)
- Sandy Sowell
- Robert Sowell
- Judy Patterson (Will's Stepmom)
- Mary Rittmanic (Kathy Patterson's mom)

Our shut-ins

- Charlotte Carney
- Bernice Lezotte
- Brooks Kerr
- Dorothy Kerr
- Lorraine Schneider
- Arian Tompkins
- Jack Walters
- Nyla Wepprecht
- Linda Wertz



A special prayer request is out for Shirley Maxfield. She is presently in Riverside Hospital in 2ICU, Bed 2, after a bad fall at her place of residence. Please remember Shirley and her family in your prayers at this time.

Keep all of our shut-ins, which are listed above, in your daily thoughts and prayers. Send them a card, call them, or go visit. Remember that they are still an important part of our church family and all would love to hear from you have you pay a visit.

MUSIC NOTES

PAUL JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

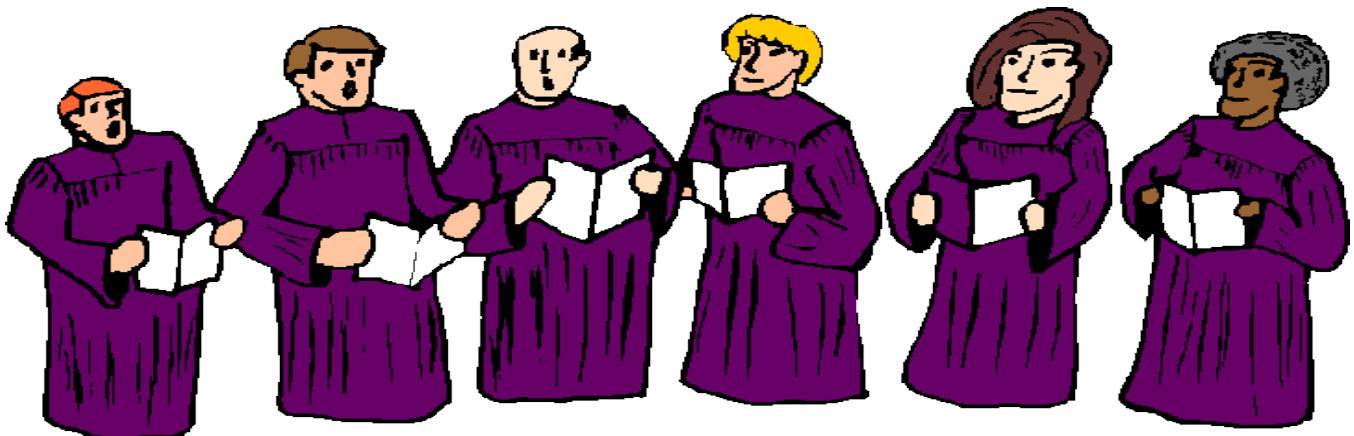


December has been a busy month for me, and probably for each of you as well. I surely hope that the Advent and Christmas Eve services were meaningful to you. Rev. Garton and I were very particular as we prepared them, guided of course by the Holy Spirit. If everything went “according to plan”, you felt or experienced the presence of God and deepened your faith. Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. Your participation made the service not just work, but your being prepared, smooth execution of each “piece” of the service helped to create a powerful and moving experience. Thank you!

As we look to 2011 there are many questions before us here at First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee. However, with continued prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit we will continue to move forward as we seek His direction for us. I am honored to be serving as your Director of Music Ministries, and look forward to see what God has in store for all of us.

Be blessed,

Paul



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**We Are A Bridge-Building,
Peacemaking Church!!**

Session

Class of 2010

Trudy Curtis
Mary Elise Burnett
Becky Schiltz

Class of 2011

Bonnie Bergeron
Jeanne Chapman
In memory-John Hedlin

Class of 2012

Thomas Pitkin (1 yr. term)
Dan Pitkin
Judy Markham

Deacons

Class of 2010

Liz Bauer
Chris Young

Class of 2011

Bernadette LaMore
Gina Zunke

Class of 2012

Chandler Faber (1 yr. term)
Anne Muchemi